



THE EDUCATOR

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Support the School Budget on May 20

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 20. The ballot will also include two propositions and three school board candidate positions.

The support of every ATA member is vital to ensure a positive outcome to the budget process. If you do not live in the district it is important that you talk to your friends and family who do and encourage them to get out and vote on the 20th. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and both of the propositions are important to you and how they will benefit the children of the district.

In addition, offer to give them information about the candidates for

school board and explain why it is important for the success of Arlington to have people on the school board who will help to ensure that Arlington continues to offer the quality education that we always have, even when difficult fiscal decisions are necessary.

To the right and below you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2014–2015 Arlington school budget, the bus proposition, and the candidates running for election to the school board. More information about these items and the health and safety proposition can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

Every vote counts!

BUDGET FACTS

- A 2.00% tax levy increase is proposed
- The average tax increase for a \$300,000 home would be \$11.33 per month
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget with a 0% tax levy increase would be adopted, meaning that an additional \$2.6 million would have to be cut. That would require drastic program cuts and staff reductions.

Visit

arlingtonschools.org
for more information

BUS PROPOSITION

When school buses reach a certain age or number of miles NYS requires that they are replaced. Taxpayers are asked to permit the district to purchase new vehicles. This would cost a family with a home valued at \$250,000 \$5.22 per year over 5 years, starting in 2015-2016. If the bus proposition is not passed the district will have to lease buses, which will be more expensive.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The terms of three current school board members; Sean Johnston, Neil Martin, and Jim Shuttleworth, are expiring and four candidates are running to fill these three seats. The ATA recently interviewed all of the candidates and is endorsing the following: **Peter Bodnar, Pauline Herr,** and **Jim Shuttleworth.**

ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

What war did Arlington graduate Charlie Johnson give his life in?

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Bonnie Glick** from VF and **Kristine Jackson** from AMS. They correctly identified **Ed McCormick** as Arlington's longest-serving school board member. They are now the proud owners of ATA gear.

Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to rmchugh@acsdny.org by May 30th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

NYSUT Says No to Privatization



Photo by Betsy Marshall

Signs created for the Picket in the Pines voice public educator's displeasure with the Cuomo administration.

It was cold, wet and rainy. Still, more than 400 teachers and parents from across the state chose to travel to Lake Placid on Sunday May 4, to "Picket in The Pines". We were there to send a message to the wealthy Wall Street types who were attending a three-day education retreat billed as "Camp Philos".

The message was: Teachers, parents, students and other community members will no longer be silent while wealthy hedge fund managers meet behind closed doors to plan strategies designed to destroy public education, cripple our unions and marginalize the teaching profession. We gathered to send the message that, "Public Education is not for sale to the highest bidder!"

Karen Magee, our recent-

ly elected NYSUT President, had a few things to say about education reform as we picketed in front of the White Face Lodge. "No one can decide what works for us. We are the professionals! We are the educators! ... We will continue to fight until we

"No one can decide what works for us. We are the professionals! We are the educators! ... We will continue to fight until we are in the room."

-NYSUT President Karen Magee

are in the room." Magee said.

Those of us outside the gates of the White Face Lodge were disappointed to hear that Governor Cuomo, the official event chairman for Camp Philos, would be sending his "Welcome to Camp Philos" speech via video instead of delivering it in person as planned.

As everyone knows, Gov-

ernor Cuomo, during this past budget season, proposed to underfund traditional public schools that serve 97% of children, while at the same time aggressively pushing for more resources and special privileges for corporate run charter schools that serve just 3% of children. While Cuomo came via satellite to cash in on his promises to his corporate campaign donors, the community members outside the gates of the education retreat came in person to make a promise of our own. Our promise was to continue to fight for educational equity for all of our children. Because we know that it is communities, not corporate campaign donors, who know how to build strong productive neighborhood schools that are open to all children and not just a few.

Our promise is that "Picket in The Pines" only marks the beginning of a gathering resistance to corporate led education reform with its over reliance on standardized testing. Come join us on Saturday May 17. Meet other Arlington Teachers at the Poughkeepsie train station to travel into NYC for the day. We will be joining thousands of other teachers, parents, students and administrators who are determined to continue the fight to save our schools.

-Betsy Marshall,
CAC Co-Chair

Arlington Teachers Team Up With Carmel



Photo courtesy of Greg Nieman

Members of the Carmel Teachers' Association (second through fourth from right) came to the ATA Office to join the Arlington Teachers' Association in a conversation with State Senator Terry Gipson about education issues.

On Friday, April 25 the ATA hosted a meeting with State Senator Terry Gipson in conjunction with the Carmel Teacher's Association (CTA). Gipson's district covers much of Putnam and Dutchess counties and CTA

president Lisa Jackson had the idea of joining together with the ATA in order to strengthen our lobbying efforts. According to Jackson, "While having a conversation with the Senator it became clear to me that our lawmakers do not fully

understand the impact of legislation in the classroom or on our students. Of course I doubt they have many opportunities to sit down one-on-one with the practitioners. I immediately thought of collaborating with the ATA because I know how engaged your leadership is.

The meeting exceeded our expectations. The Carmel and Arlington teachers worked seamlessly together in educating the Senator on the issues surrounding Common Core, high stakes testing and its costs to the districts and the state, the Gap Elimination Adjustment, and the Tax Cap.

The Senator would like to continue the conversation and the CTA hopes to continue building this coalition with the ATA."

Negotiations Update:

Negotiations are continuing with several dates planned for May and June. Both sides have an interest in settling this in a timely fashion in a manner that is respectful to the needs of both parties. Thank you for your continued support and we will keep you updated with our progress.

*-Donna Doerrier,
Chief Negotiator*

Spotlight on the Contract: Textbooks

Each issue of The Educator spotlights a particular part of our contract in an effort to make our members more familiar with their rights and the terms and conditions of their employment. If you have a section you would like to see featured, email sfalk@acsdny.org.

"The purchase of additional textbooks and other instructional materials, changes in such materials, or selection of new materials shall continue to be determined according to the procedure presently in effect, to the end that teachers involved shall participate in the selection of all textbooks."

Explanation: According to this provision of the ATA contract (Article XIII, page 18), no teacher should be required to use a new textbook or "other instructional materials" that have been purchased without the input of teachers. Although this clearly says that administration may not select such materials themselves, it does not specify the amount of involvement the teacher must have in the purchasing process.

Rebuilding Our Community Together



Photo Courtesy of Kristin Clerkin

The ATA has sponsored the renovation of a house through Rebuilding Together Dutchess County. On April 26 ATA members were joined by members of the Poughquag/Pawling United Methodist Church to work on the house.

For the third year in a row, the Arlington Teachers' Association joined forces with the local Dutchess County chapter of Rebuilding Together, an organization dedicated to helping low-income families have safe living. April is National Rebuilding Month when the organization gathers volunteers from across the country to volunteer their resources to help families in need

improve the safety of their homes. Across

the county, volunteers are working on projects such as fixing the founda-

tion, replacing the furnace, installing new rolled

Dutchess County 10 homes were rehabilitated.

On April 26, the Arlington Teachers' Association teamed with the Poughquag/Pawling United Methodist Church to sponsor and volun-

teer to help rebuild a local home in Poughkeepsie. On that day approximately 40 volunteers were at the home completing tasks such as fixing the founda-



Photo courtesy of Kristin Clerkin

Betsy Denis (UVMS) cleans a roof before installing new rolled roofing on it.

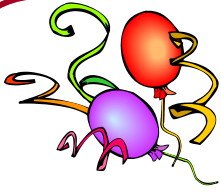
teer to help rebuild a local home in Poughkeepsie. On that day approximately 40 volunteers were at the home completing tasks such as fixing the founda-

-Kristin Clerkin, OPS



Photo Courtesy of Kristin Klerkin

Doug Dickeson (UVMS) makes use of his carpentry skills while volunteering at a house in Poughkeepsie.



The Arlington Teachers' Association 10th Annual Miniature Golf Outing

Bring the whole family for a day of Miniature Golf, Free Food, Music, Crafts, Face Painting, Prizes, Raffles, and Lots of Fun!

Saturday, June 7th 11am-2pm

Overlook Golf Center

\$8.00 per player

Pre-register by May 24th and registration is only \$7.00 per player PLUS you will receive an additional door prize ticket on the day of the event!

Registration

Name: _____ No. of Players: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 School: _____ Teacher: _____

Make checks payable to: Arlington Teachers' Association

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "ATA MINI-GOLF" TO THE MAIN OFFICE OF YOUR SCHOOL BUILDING OR SEND DIRECTLY TO:

Arlington Teachers' Association, 46 Davis Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

NO TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.



Simply check in at the registration table on the day of the event!




Sponsored By:

Arlington Parent Teacher Association, Arlington Teachers' Association, Raymond Opticians

Come to the 2014 Recognition Dinner!

On Friday, June 13th, the ATA will hold its annual recognition dinner/dance. The evening provides an opportunity to recognize and say goodbye to those who have decided to retire. The event will be from 6:30—11:30 p.m. at Christos, with dinner at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$50.00 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and a cash bar.



New teachers — fill out the entry form at right to enter a raffle for two free tickets!



ENTRY FORM

2 Free Tickets to the ATA Recognition Party

You must be in your first three years of teaching at Arlington to be eligible.

Name: _____

School: _____

Send completed form through interoffice mail to the ATA Office.

2013—2014 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Kathleen Blank Cicala

Chief Negotiator

Donna Doerrier

PR Committee Chair

TBA

Community Action Chairs

Betsy Marshall

Robert McHugh

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Media Specialist

Sam Falk

Éminence Grise Emeritus

Robert McHugh

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — Johanna Pungello

BES — Anne Schillinger

NES — Elise Pattison

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

AMS — Carmine Anastasio

LMS — Steve Bronzi

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

Arthur S. May Elementary

Fifth grade teacher *Michele Anderson* recently learned that her picture book, *Don't Spill the Beans*, will be published as an ebook by MeeGenius. The humorous story, aimed at children up to age 8, will be available for download via the MeeGenius website or app for Apple devices, Android, Windows 8, Amazon and Nook. The announcement was a dream come true for Anderson and she looks forward to sharing her story with students at Arthur



Photo courtesy of Katherine Falcone

Union Vale Middle

This year, as part of the fundraising efforts for the annual Washington D.C. trip, UVMS teachers *Ed O'Connor*, *Mike Tucci* and *Matt Reilly* helped organize a Tonight Show-themed variety show. The "Tonight Show and Jimmy's Failin'" was performed in front of a sold-out crowd. Numerous UVMS staff members dazzled the audience with humorous skits, musical performances and student vs. teacher challenges. Highlights of the show were the EW! Girls skit, the teacher lip synching contest and the UVMS version of Pharell's "Happy" music video. Over \$4,000 was raised for D.C. scholarships through ticket sales and raffles.

Pictured above are UVMS teachers Mike Tucci (left), Matt Reilly (center), and Billy Internicola performing at the event and demonstrating what lengths teachers will go to in support of their students.

S. May. The anticipated release date is later this summer.

Beekman Elementary

Third grade teacher *Christine LaGuardia* and AIS teacher *Robin Romano* have organized Beekman's 8th annual Kickball-for-Life event. It will take place on Wednesday, May 21, starting at 5 pm (rain date - Thursday, May 22). Stu-

dents from BES will participate in a kickball tournament against their fellow classmates, and to culminate the night, students will watch their teachers take on the police department. It is always an exciting game for the students! Green Haven Restaurant will be on site providing delicious pizza and refreshments, along with El

See Excel on Page 7

ATA Members Excel Outside Their Classrooms

Continued from Page 6

Guapos Tacos Food Truck with mouthwatering, gluten-free tacos. To satisfy the sweet tooth, the Beekman PTA and teachers will contribute items for a bake sale. All of the proceeds will be donated to the Arlington High School Relay-for-Life Team, supporting the American Cancer Society. BES faculty, staff and the community would love to see you there, even if it's just for a bite to eat. Come out and support our efforts in the fight against cancer!

Students at BES are participating in a book making project through an organization called Kids to Kids International. *Katherine Odell's* second grade class and *Xiang Bove's* kindergarten class are making picture books that are going to be sent overseas to children in the countries of Ghana and the Dominican Republic, among others. The mission of the program

is to empower American children to make a difference in the lives of other children by sending books and educational supplies to other children around the world. Odell's students worked collaboratively to retell several classic fairy tales, and are working with *Linda Simoneau* in art class to create corresponding illustrations. Bove's students are creating counting and alphabet books within their classroom. The students have greatly enjoyed this project, and feel great about how they are making a positive difference in the lives of other children around the world! For more information about the program, you can visit their website at www.ktki.org.

Union Vale Middle

Technology teacher *Doug Dickerson* is assisting in a clothing drive to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Donations of clothing, household items, accessories

and toys can be dropped off at UVMS outside the tech wing for pick up on May 17. Please contact Doug with any questions about these tax-deductible donations.

Social worker *Paula Dante* attended the 2014 Annual Spring Conference of CASADA (Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse) on April 10 to gain up-to-date information to assist families in crisis. The conference was co-sponsored by the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene and the Dutchess Bar Association. In March, Dante presented at PNW BOCES as part of the Healthy School Communities: Vision in Action Conference on the topic Schools on the Front Line in the War against Bullying. Dante discussed the challenges posed by the Dignity for All Students Act from a student support perspective for counseling staff and administrators from various districts.



Photo courtesy of Erica Dunn

ASM Physical Education teacher Chris Keenan instructed some happy snowshoers.

Arthur S. May Elementary

Students in grades 1-5 learned snowshoeing thanks to Physical Education teachers *Chris Keenan* and *Ryan Sonne*, who led the students over a snowy campus of teacher-made trails, including "Glacier Pass" and "Everest Trail". The culminating activity of over a week of snowshoeing experience was the 2nd annual after school Penguin Plunge. This is a family event in which parents could either watch or snowshoe along with their student guide. Over 60 students participated and were given a chance to warm up after an afternoon of snowshoeing in a converted lodge where board games and refreshments were served. Despite the polar vortex that gripped our region this winter, Arthur S. May students and families had a great season.

Dates to Remember



MAY

- 18th—Spring Highway Cleanup, 8:30 a.m., AHS
- 20th—**School Budget Vote**
- 26th—Memorial Day, No School
- 27th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., BES

JUNE

- 7th—ATA Miniature Golf Outing, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Overlook Golf Center
- 10th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS
- 13th—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos
- 16th—Last Day of Classes, AHS
- 23rd—Half Day, ASM and AMS
- 24th—Last Day of Classes (Half Day), All Elementary and Middle Schools
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 25th—Professional Development Day
- 26th—Superintendent's Conference Day
- 28th—High School Graduation, 6 p.m., Dutchess Stadium



Announcements

This year's date for ATA Night at the Renegades is Tuesday, July 29. Ticket order forms can be found on our web page.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on June 9 and 13. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up.

Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out the ATA webpage at www.arlingtonteachers.com for photos, contact information, benefits forms, issues of *The Educator* and more.